

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 201627Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2542

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1085

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE CLASSES

ESTABLISHED

1. A COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE CLASSES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER TERMS OF A LEGISLATIVE DECREE PUBLISHED IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE FEBRUARY 15. CURRENT DECREE IN EFFECT MODIFIES AND EXPANDS THE WORK OF AN EARLIER COUNCIL (I.E. COUNCIL OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION) WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969 BUT WHICH APPARENTLY NEVER ATTRACTED MUCH SUBSEQUENT ATTENTION. NEW COUNCIL WILL CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMPLOYEE, EMPLOYER, CONSUMER, SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRIME MINISTER AND OFFER HIM COUNSEL AND ADVICE ON (A) BASIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES; (B) PRICE AND INCOME POLICIES; (C) COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; AND (D) FUNDAMENTAL MATTERS RELATING TO GREECE AND EEC.

2. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS STATED THAT REORGANIZATION AND ACTIVATION OF COUNCIL SHOULD BE VIEWED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL GOG EFFORT TO RENDER MORE EFFECTIVE THE OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT AND THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT MACHINERY. A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WILL BE ISSUED IN NEAR
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FUTURE ESTABLISHING NUMBER AND LENGTH OF SERVICE OF

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING COUNCIL'S ORGANIZATION, OPERATION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE.

COMMENT: ONCE FULL TEXTS BOTH LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREES AVAILABLE AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH MEMBERS "SOCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE CLASSES" AFFECTED, EMBASSY WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS COUNCIL'S TRUE NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE. IT POSSIBLE THAT GOG FEELS IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SOME AVENUE FOR CITIZENS TO VOICE VIEWS DIRECTLY TO GOVERNMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS DIRECTLY AFFECTING THEM--A NEED MADE MORE ACUTE BY DEMISE LATE LAST YEAR OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION ("MINI-PARLIAMENT"). NEXT FEW MONTHS SHOULD TELL WHETHER GOG REALLY DESIRES COUNCIL TO PLAY SUBSTANTIVE ROLE IN EFFECTING TRUE GOVERNMENT-CITIZENRY DIALOGUE--OR WHETHER IT ONLY WISHES COUNCIL TO SERVE AS WINDOW DRESSING TO SOFTEN REGIME'S IMAGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, SOCIAL CLASSES, COMMITTEES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS01085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaauvi.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE CLASSES ESTABLISHED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005